(e) At present there is no proposal under consideration of Central Government to undertake artificial rain operations in Saurashtra and north-Gujarat.

Rain making experiment in Gujarat

†1483. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Times of India on 16th July, 1986 captioned 'Rain making experiments in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any positive results have been achieved by the experiments; and

(d) whether such experiments are also likely to be conducted in the States of Bihar and Orissa, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been carrying out cloud seeding operations in different areas of Gujarat since middle of July, 1986. However, the results have not been very encouraging.

(d) There is no proposal at present to undertake artificial rain making experiments in the States of Bihar and Orissa.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1137, transferred from the 1st August, 1986.

Losses incurred in the implementation of some Public Sector Projects

†1484. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the "Hindustan Times" of the 31st March, 1986 to the effect that the public exchequer has incurred a loss of about Rs. 18,000 crores in the implementation of several public sector projects: if so, what are the facts in this regard and the project-wise break-up of the losses and also what are the reasons for such losses in each case; and

(b) by how much each 'key sector' project has been delayed and its estimated impact on the health of other projects?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes. Sir; the Press report mentioned by the Hon. Members appears to be based on the information furnished by me in reply to Starred Question No. 249 by Shri K. Ramamurthy answered on 12-3-1986 in the Lok Sabha. The amount of Rs. 18351 crores cannot, however, be termed as loss to the public exchequer, it represents costs escalation of delayed projects which is attributable to a number of reasons including inflation in costs over time.

(b) The extent of delay in 134 projects costing above Rs. 20 crores as on 31-3-1986 is indicated. Sector wise, in the enclosed statement. (See Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1181, transferred from the 4th August 1986.